



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

## Problem Gambling Ireland

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# ABOUT PROBLEM GAMBLING IRELAND

## Company Type

Problem Gambling Ireland incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. Company Number: 593936.

## Period Covered

This Annual Report covers the period: January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

## Charitable Status

During this period, we worked towards charitable status. We went on to achieve charitable status on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2018. Registered Charity Number: 20154738.

*“Dedicated to preventing and minimising gambling-related harm in Ireland”*

## Head Office

Our office is based in Viewmount House, Viewmount Park, Dunmore Road, Waterford City.

Barry Grant  
Chief Executive Officer  
28/11/2018

# OUR DIRECTORS

On our incorporation as a Company Limited by Guarantee, the following people made up our Board of Directors:

- Stephen Plunkett (Chair)
- Raymond Murray (Secretary)
- Jonathan Collins
- James Bruton
- Lisa Murphy

The following Directors joined later in the year:

- Paul Corcoran
- Keith Delaney (Treasurer)



- Eight Board Meetings were held, over the course of 2017.
- Resolution passed by Board to sign the 'On the Journey' Document of the Governance Code, on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Resolution passed by Board to sign the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising, on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

# MISSION & VISION

## Our Mission

Our Mission is to prevent and minimise gambling-related harm in Ireland

## Our Vision

Our Vision is to make responsible gambling a reality in Ireland.

In order for responsible gambling to become a reality, three elements are required:

Responsible Policy

Responsible Provision

Responsible Consumption

We actively lobby Government for the introduction of fit-for-purpose gambling legislation and regulation in Ireland.

We are open to working with the gambling industry in order to provide player protection training to their staff and to discuss the development of robust responsible gambling policies and procedures.

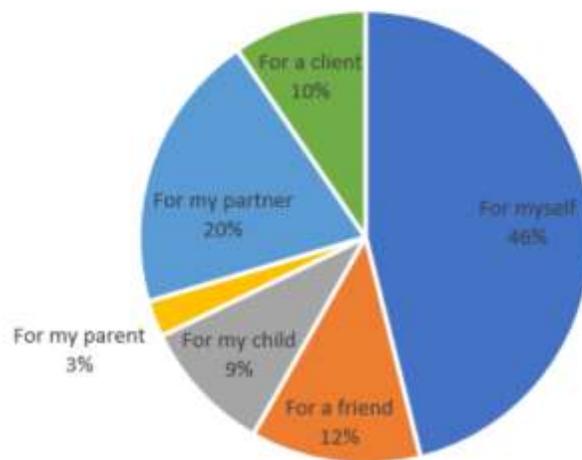
We work with all sectors of Irish society, in order to support the responsible use (consumption) of gambling services. We work from a harm-minimisation and harm-prevention standpoint. We are conscious of the fact that, for the vast majority of people with serious gambling problems, this will mean abstaining from gambling.

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

**Website:** Problem Gambling Ireland started out as a web-based resource for independent information and advice for anyone affected by problem gambling in Ireland. In 2016, our website, [www.problemgambling.ie](http://www.problemgambling.ie) received 11,169 unique visitors. This more than doubled in 2017, reaching 25,675 unique visitors. To put these numbers into context, the Institute for Public Health in Ireland estimate that there are between 28,000 and 40,000 people with gambling problems in Ireland.



Reason for visiting [www.problemgambling.ie](http://www.problemgambling.ie)



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

**Awareness Raising:** Problem Gambling Ireland engaged in numerous interviews with national and local media, throughout the year, in an effort to raise awareness of the risks associated with problem gambling and to encourage help-seeking. We also consulted on SpunOut's problem gambling campaign, which ran in March of 2018.

Media engagements included: Clare FM, The Journal, RTE Liveline, The Irish Daily Mail, The Last Word, The Times Ireland, Newstalk Breakfast, The Irish Times, WLR, RTE Six One, Kildare FM, Ocean FM, Midwest Radio, Flourish Magazine, Near FM, Irish Examiner.



**Ease of access 'leads to student gambling increase'**

*Irish Times* - 10 Feb 2017

**Gambling** has become just as interwoven with student life as partying and ... said **Barry Grant**, addiction counsellor and the founder of **Problem** ...

**Helpline:** Our helpline service, which operates on a 'call-back' basis, due to limited resources, had 1,007 engagements in 2017. These were quite evenly split between phone calls and email/text message/direct messages (on social media). Roughly half of these engagements were from concerned persons, with the other half coming from people with gambling problems. We also piloted a weekend helpline service for 3 months, in order to gauge demand for this type of service. While it became apparent that this type of service is needed, we were unable to continue beyond the pilot, due to lack of resources.

**THE PROBLEM GAMBLING  
IRELAND WEEKEND  
HELPLINE IS OPEN!**

**OPEN 12-6 SAT & SUN**

**LANDLINE: 076 603 68 38**

**WHATSAPP: 089 452 8059**

**FOR PROBLEM GAMBLERS & THEIR LOVED ONES**

**WWW.PROBLEMGAMBLING.IE**

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

**Gambling Harm-Prevention Talks:** We delivered talks in a variety of settings around the country, including secondary schools, GAA clubs and Colleges. Young people are a high-risk group for developing gambling problems. We would like to thank the following for inviting us to speak: DIT Bolton Street; Colaiste Muire, Ennis; UCD Social Innovation Bootcamp; 'We Need to Talk About Gambling' Conference (Dublin); Presentation College Cork (Parents Committee); Freshford GAA Club; Sarsfields GAA Club; Athlone IT; Trinity College.



**IRELAND**

**REMOVE THE BLINKERS**

**WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT GAMBLING!**

**Important public debate on the need to regulate the gambling industry**

**Gandon Suite, Davenport Hotel,  
Merrion Square, Dublin 2.**

**Registration 9.30am**

**Organised by Lynn Boylan MEP**

Gaeilgeoirí Cearta - Naoimh Cearta Cearta  
 **GUE/NGL**  
[www.gueingl.eu](http://www.gueingl.eu)

**Training Delivery:** Our one-day training course, Foundation in Problem Gambling Assessment & Brief Interventions, was accredited by the Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland for Continuing Education Units, in June 2017. We delivered the course to staff at Ballyfermot Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force and Dublin Simon Community, later in the year.

**Research:** We were approached by four Senior Sophister Trinity College Business Students of Social Innovation and Social Impact, who expressed an interest in developing a resource tool for Problem Gambling Ireland, to improve our online and social media presence and help with our lobbying work.

As part of their project, the Trinity students surveyed 514 secondary school students (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year) at the following schools: Belvedere College, Terenure College, Saint Kevin's (all in Dublin) and Colaiste Muire (in Ennis).

They found that 67% of the students in their survey had already gambled. Of those students who had gambled, 75% stated that they had faced no restrictions in relation to their age, when accessing gambling services. This is concerning, as the Trinity students had difficulty accessing 6<sup>th</sup> Year students for their survey, due to Leaving Certificate preparations - and most survey participants were from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Year.

## Survey Results

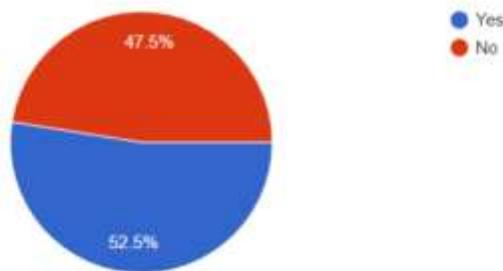


# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

**Research:** In September 2017, we attended the Transition Year Expo in Kildare. At the Expo, we conducted a gambling behaviour and attitudes survey of 240 Transition Year students. 97% of the students were aged 16 or younger. Roughly half (52.5%) of the students stated that they had already gambled.

Have you ever gambled? [If you answer 'No' to this question, the survey is complete. Thank you for your time!]

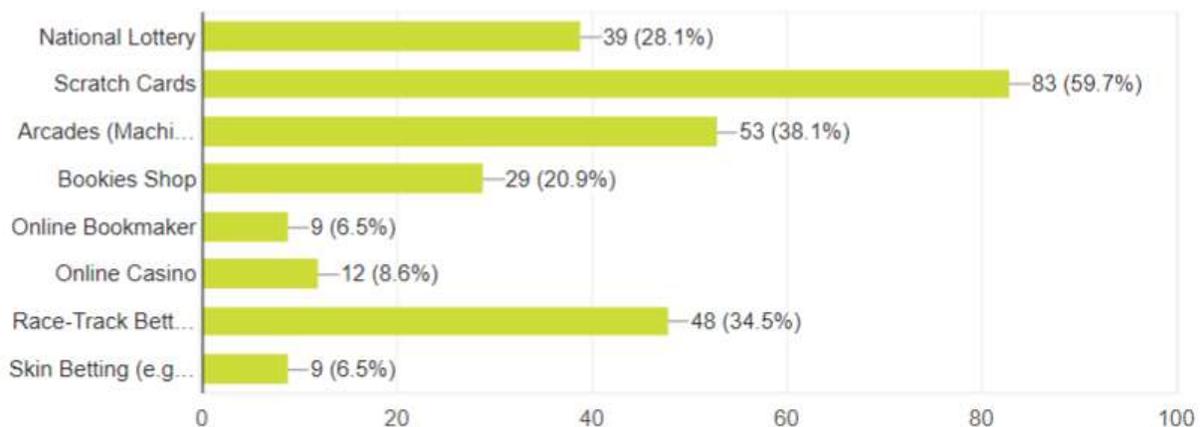
240 responses



Of those students who had gambled, the most popular form of gambling was scratch cards (59.7%). It is also worth noting the popularity of race-track betting, in third place at 34.5%. There is currently no age limit for Tote betting in Ireland. We urge the government to remedy this situation as soon as possible.

What types of gambling have you tried? (Please select all that apply to you.)

139 responses

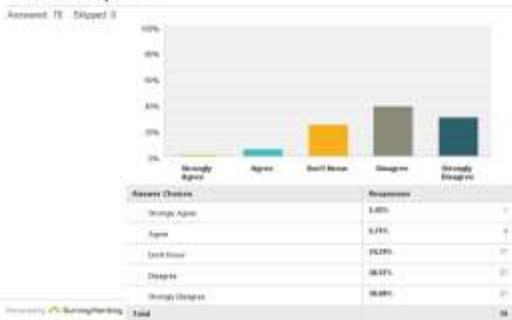


# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

**Research:** In early 2017, we sent a survey to all community-based addiction services listed on the [www.drugs.ie](http://www.drugs.ie) website. We received 70 responses to the survey. The purpose of this survey was to inform our strategic development. Some key findings from the survey included:

- 68% of respondents disagreed with the statement “there are sufficient support services for problem gamblers in Ireland at present” (24% Don’t Know).
- 78% of respondents agreed with the statement “Problem Gambling support services should be funded by a government levy on Gambling Industry income”.
- 95% of respondents agreed with the statement “Specialised out-patient treatment services for Problem Gambling should be available in Ireland”.
- 93% of respondents disagreed with the statement “I am happy with the amount of gambling advertising currently on Irish media (including social media)”.

**Q3: I feel that there are sufficient support services for problem gamblers in Ireland at present.**



**Q6: Problem Gambling support services should be funded by a government levy on Gambling Industry income.**



**Q12: Specialised out-patient treatment services for Problem Gambling should be available in Ireland.**



**Q14: I am happy with the amount of gambling advertising currently on Irish media (including social media).**



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

**Lobbying:** Building on our joint submission, with the Union of Students in Ireland and the Rutland Centre (October 2016), we continued to lobby for the enactment of the Gambling Control Bill in 2017. The Heads of the Gambling Control Bill were published in 2013 and, unfortunately, there has been limited progress since then, with the Bill not even at 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage, at the time of writing (November 2018).

In July 2017, Problem Gambling Ireland, in collaboration with the Rutland Centre, made a submission to the Department of Finance, as part of their review of Betting Duty in Ireland. The Department had reduced the Betting Duty from 2% to 1% in 2006 on the basis that: “The explosion in the use of mobile phones, laptops and other electronic communication devices has greatly facilitated the migration of punters to the remote sector. Accordingly, until such time as the playing field for the traditional and remote bookmaker has been levelled, in so far as taxation is concerned, the rate had to be kept at low levels”. Betting Duty for remote bookmakers came into effect in 2015, thereby ‘levelling the playing field’.

Our submission proposed a 0.1% increase in Betting Duty, with the additional funding (roughly €5 million) to be allocated to problem gambling services. We also made a pre-budget submission, to the same effect. We met with Minister of State John Halligan, who supported our proposal and, along with his Independent Alliance colleagues, sought the increase in Budget 2018. Unfortunately, this did not come to pass at this time.

In October 2017, we were asked by the Department of Justice to provide written views on the proposed Civil Law and Courts (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2017. In collaboration with the Rutland Centre, we provided feedback on the proposed legislation - which is yet to be enacted, at the time of writing (November 2018). The feedback included:

- Concerns regarding the proposed repeal of prohibition of gaming on premises which are licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor.
- Concerns regarding wording in the proposed legislation, which provided for an ‘honest mistake’ to be a good defence for gambling operators who provided gambling services to minors.

## CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

Whether it is with our service users, the statutory agencies with whom we have started to work, or, in particular, the wider public - growing the awareness of Problem Gambling in Ireland and gaining the confidence of others in the work of Problem Gambling Ireland (PGI) is absolutely crucial at this time.

2017 provided many inspiring moments and examples of the rising change in awareness and impact from PGI's work. The valuable on-going work being done to connect with individuals and families experiencing problem gambling issues has been eye-opening in regard to the extent of the issues. The need to provide expanded support services is critical and growing and to that end, PGI has played a crucial role in 2017.

Our interventions are now reaching more individuals, agencies and groups than ever. Moments of note in 2017 include: the accreditation of our training program for Helping Professionals, by the Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland; massively increased awareness of gambling-related harm, on all media platforms; and research into the prevalence of gambling among young people in Ireland.

The dedicated media campaign has been extremely valuable and deserves special note. PGI are now the 'go to' organisation for the national media - The Times Ireland, RTE Television, Sunday Independent, Newstalk, Irish Times and RTE Radio - now consult PGI regularly for the true and accurate facts, figures and stories.

Trust and recognition is rarely given lightly and it is testimony to our CEO's diligence, professionalism, persistence and hard work that a real understanding of gambling issues and effective solutions have been brought to the forefront in Irish society, especially given the challenges and neglect of supports for what is seen as the 'poor relation' in the addiction services.

Without the hard work of our Board and, in particular, our CEO, Barry Grant, we would not have been able to work with and on behalf of all the people we reached in 2017. Barry has continued to be the sole employee of PGI in our second year. In very difficult financial circumstances, Barry has continued to work towards a national reach of supports and awareness. At this time, Barry has sole responsibility for all service-delivery, as well as administration. I would like to thank Barry on behalf of the Board and client base for his commitment and passion.

We trust that the work we continue to do on submissions, like our Betting Tax submission to the Minister for Finance this year, will encourage debate, raise questions and awareness - and change the approach of the government to these issues. Investment in much needed services and programs has been brought closer by our work, perseverance and persistence to deliver this essential service.

Trust also underpins the role of the Board, of which I am proud to have been Chairperson throughout 2017. Good governance is crucial to the openness and transparency of PGI, and to this end we have committed ourselves to the principles of the Governance Code, as well as best practices in fundraising.

The commitment of my fellow board members to their roles has also been inspiring to see, and together we have been immensely proud of the positive outcomes that Barry and PGI have helped bring about for many people in the past year.

I would like to offer our deepest gratitude and thanks to our funders: Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, Solidarity Trust Fund and the Community Foundation for Ireland.

To all of our service-users, supporters and partners, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I offer my sincerest thanks.

Stephen Plunkett  
Chairperson, Problem Gambling Ireland

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S STATEMENT

In January 2016, I published a website, [www.problemgambling.ie](http://www.problemgambling.ie). As an addiction counsellor, I had seen ever-increasing numbers of people with gambling problems seeking help. I became aware that services for people affected by gambling-related harm in Ireland, were extremely limited - and that many of those in operation were established and funded by the gambling industry. I believed then, as now, that there is a more ethical way to provide supports. And so, I set about establishing an organisation that would be free from conflicts of interest and which could highlight the risks associated with gambling, in order to encourage greater levels of help-seeking.

When I started out, I could never have imagined that a simple idea could grow into an organisation with such potential. I am deeply indebted to the Board of Directors who have given so much of their time, experience and energy to this project. The support of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, who provided us with our first piece of funding, through their Elevator Award (October 2016), has been immeasurable. We simply cannot thank them enough.

2017 was an exciting year for Problem Gambling Ireland. We delivered talks, training and workshops in numerous counties, including: Clare, Kildare, Dublin, Cork, Westmeath. We answered hundreds of phone calls and emails from people with gambling problems and concerned family members. We engaged in research projects, looking at the prevalence of gambling among secondary school students in Ireland. Our website traffic more than doubled (to over 25,000), compared to 2016. Our awareness-raising efforts lead to problem gambling being discussed in national and local media, at a level never before seen in Ireland.

I would like to reserve special thanks for the Community Foundation for Ireland for funding the development of this Annual Report.

Barry Grant  
CEO, Problem Gambling Ireland

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PROBLEM GAMBLING IRELAND

(A company limited by guarantee, without a share capital)

## INCOME STATEMENT

for the period from 1 December 2016 (date of incorporation) to 31 December 2017

	Notes	Dec 17 €
Income		23,850
Expenditure		(27,453)
		<hr/>
Deficit before tax		(3,603)
Tax on deficit		-
		<hr/>
Deficit for the period		(3,603)
		<hr/>
Total comprehensive income		(3,603)
		<hr/> <hr/>

Approved by the board on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

Raymond Murray

Secretary

Jonathan Collins

Director

**PROBLEM GAMBLING IRELAND**

(A company limited by guarantee, without a share capital)

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2017

	Notes	Dec 17 €
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents		3,472
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(7,075)
		<hr/>
<b>Net Current Liabilities</b>		<b>(3,603)</b>
		<hr/>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>(3,603)</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Income statement		(3,603)
		<hr/>
<b>Members' Deficit</b>		<b>(3,603)</b>
		<hr/> <hr/>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard.

Approved by the board on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

Raymond Murray

Secretary

Jonathan Collins

Director

## PROBLEM GAMBLING IRELAND

(A company limited by guarantee, without a share capital)

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

as at 31 December 2017

	Retained deficit €	Total €
Deficit for the period	(3,603)	(3,603)
At 31 December 2017	<u>(3,603)</u>	<u>(3,603)</u>

**PROBLEM GAMBLING IRELAND**

(A company limited by guarantee, without a share capital)

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the period from 1 December 2016 (date of incorporation) to 31 December 2017

	Notes	Dec 17 €
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Deficit for the period		(3,603)
		<hr/>
		(3,603)
Movements in working capital:		
Movement in creditors		7,075
		<hr/>
Cash generated from operations		3,472
		<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial period	13	3,472

# PROBLEM GAMBLING IRELAND

(A company limited by guarantee, without a share capital)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the period from 1 December 2016 (date of incorporation) to 31 December 2017

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Problem Gambling Ireland is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office of the company is Solution Focus, Viewmount House, Dunmore Road, Waterford, which is also the principal place of business of the company. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' Report. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

#### **Statement of compliance**

The financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2017 have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A (Small Entities) and the Companies Act 2014. These are the company's first set of financial statements prepared in accordance with FRS 102.

#### **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" Section 1A, issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

## **Income**

Turnover comprises of grant income and the invoice value of services supplied by the company.

## **Trade and other creditors**

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

## **Employee benefits**

The only employees were the directors, none of whom received any remuneration in the period.

## **Taxation and deferred taxation**

Current tax represents the amount expected to be paid or recovered in respect of taxable income for the period and is calculated using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantially enacted at the Statement of Financial Position date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events have occurred at that date that will result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future, or a right to pay less tax in the future. Timing differences are temporary differences between the company's taxable income and its results as stated in the financial statements.

Deferred tax is measured on an undiscounted basis at the tax rates that are anticipated to apply in the periods in which the timing differences are expected to reverse, based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the Statement of Financial Position date.

## **Foreign currencies**

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the Statement of Financial Position date. Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined. The resulting exchange differences are dealt with in the Income Statement.

### 3. ADOPTION OF FRS 102

This is the first set of financial statements prepared by Problem Gambling Ireland in accordance with accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, including FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” Section 1A (Small Entities).

### 4. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the statement of financial position date and the amounts reported for revenue and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

### 5. PERIOD OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements are for the 13 month period from 1 December 2016 (date of incorporation) to 31 December 2017.

### 6. GOING CONCERN

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the directors believe, having reviewed the position carefully, to be appropriate. In determining the appropriateness of preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis the directors have placed reliance on:-

- The ability to generate sufficient income from fundraising, courses and donations.

### 7. STATEMENT ON PREVIOUS PERIODS

The company did not present financial statements for previous periods.

### 8. EMPLOYEES

	<b>Dec 17</b>
	<b>Number</b>
Directors	6
	<hr/> <hr/>

### 9. CREDITORS

	<b>Dec 17</b>
	<b>€</b>
Amounts falling due within one year	
Accruals	7,075
	<hr/> <hr/>

## 10. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no material capital commitments at the period-ended 31 December 2017.

## 11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

By virtue of his position as CEO of Problem Gambling Ireland, Barry Grant is deemed to be a related party. During the period, Waterford Addiction Counselling Service, of whom Barry Grant, as owner of this business, invoiced the company and was paid €16,800. A further sum of €4,000 was due but uninvoiced at the period end and this has been accrued within these financial statements. At the 31st December 2017 Waterford Addiction Counselling Service was owed €4,000. Therefore, total charges from Waterford Addiction Counselling Service was in the amount of €20,800 for the financial period.

## 12. EVENTS AFTER END OF REPORTING PERIOD

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the period-end.

## 13. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	Dec 17
	€
Cash and bank balances	3,472

## 14. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**PROBLEM GAMBLING IRELAND**  
**(A company limited by guarantee, without a share capital)**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 DECEMBER 2016 (DATE OF INCORPORATION) TO 31**  
**DECEMBER 2017**  
**NOT COVERED BY THE REPORT OF THE AUDITORS**  
**THE FOLLOWING PAGES DO NOT FORM PART OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL**  
**STATEMENTS**

**PROBLEM GAMBLING IRELAND**

(A company limited by guarantee, without a share capital)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

for the period from 1 December 2016 (date of incorporation) to 31 December 2017

	Dec 17
	€
<b>Income</b>	
Grant-Social Entrepreneurs Ireland	20,000
Grant-Solidarity Trust Fund	2,700
Other Income	1,150
	<hr/>
	23,850
	<hr/>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Staff training	95
Insurance	300
Repairs and maintenance	438
Printing, postage and stationery	260
Exhibition costs	535
Telephone	305
Website & communication costs	257
Motor & travel expenses	1,167
Consultancy fees	20,940
Bank charges	5
General expenses	76
Auditor's remuneration	3,075
	<hr/>
	27,453
	<hr/>
<b>Net deficit</b>	<b>(3,603)</b>
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The supplementary information does not form part of the audited financial statements